Overbridge at Arakkonam

1056. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in construction of over-bridge at Arakkonam station in Southern Railway; and

(b) when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Railway has registered 24% progress on its portion of work.

(b) It will depend on the completion of the approach road work by the Highways Department of the State Government, who have not yet started the work.

Inclusion of certain places under Sambalpur Divisions

1057. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations for inclusion of Jharsuguda and Places along the Howrah-Bombay rail line from Bandomunda to Himgir under the jurisdiction of Sambalpur Division;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Representations received form various quarters have been examined and found to be not feasible on operational grounds.

[*Translation*]

Afforestation programmes in Bihar

1058. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various afforestation programmes being implemented in Bihar, district-wise; and

(b) the number of saplings planted during each of the last three years and the number of saplings survived, district-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Shortage of Foodgrains

1059. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shortage of foodgrains, grain-wise as compared to the levels prescribed under the buffer stocking policy;

(b) the quantum of minimum stock required to be maintained under the policy;

(c) the reasons for the shortfall;

(d) the impact of the shortfall on the Public distribution system; and

(e) the steps being taken to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b). The total minimum Stocks required to be maintained by the public agencies on 1st January of a year and the existing stocks as on 1.1.1992 are as under:-

(Million Tonnes)

	As on 1.1.1992	*Requirement as per buffer stocking policy*
Rice	9.3	7.7
Wheat	5.4	7.7

(c) The reasons for the shortfall in the stocks of wheat are low procurement during 1991-92 marketing season, higher releases from the Central Pool for Public Distribution System and open sales of wheat.

(d) There will be no impact of the shortfall on Public Distribution System.

(e) Government have decided to import one million tonnes of wheat. Steps will also be taken to maximise procurement in the ensuring Rabi season.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Ayurvedic Colleges and Hospitals in Gujarat

1060. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals submitted to the Union Government by the Government to Gujarat for setting up of Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals and for expansion and increasing grants for the existing ones; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). No proposal for setting up of Ayurvedic College and hospitals has been received from the Government of Gujarat. In fact, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not provide assistance to State Governments for opening new colleges and hospitals. However, request for expansion of Gulab Kunwarba Ayurvedic Mahavidyalaya, and for Reorientation Training Programme from the Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar, were received. These proposals have been considered and assistance will be provided to these institutions.

[*English*]

Food Stocks

1061. SHRI K.P. UNNIKARISHNAN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains stocks as on June 30, 1991 and December 31, 1991;

(b) whether there has been a depletion of stocks of rice and wheat during this period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and